

COUNTRY DATA: URUGUAY : Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

Montevideo, founded by the Spanish in 1726 as a military stronghold, soon took advantage of its natural harbor to become an important commercial center. Claimed by Argentina but annexed by Brazil in 1821, Uruguay declared its independence four years later and secured its freedom in 1828 after a three-year struggle. The administrations of President Jose BATLLE in the early 20th century established widespread political, social, and economic reforms that established a statist tradition. A violent Marxist urban guerrilla movement named the Tupamaros, launched in the late 1960s, led Uruguay's president to cede control of the government to the military in 1973. By yearend, the rebels had been crushed, but the military continued to expand its hold over the government. Civilian rule was not restored until 1985. In 2004, the left-of-center Frente Amplio Coalition won national elections that effectively ended 170 years of political control previously held by the Colorado and Blanco parties. Uruguay's political and labor conditions are among the freest on the continent.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Southern South America, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Argentina and Brazil
Area	total: 176,215 sq km land: 175,015 sq km water: 1,200 sq km
Climate	warm temperate; freezing temperatures almost unknown
Natural Resources	arable land, hydropower, minor minerals, fish
Total Renewable Water Resources	139 cu km (2000)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 3.15 cu km/yr (domestic 2%/ industrial 1%/ agricultural 96%) per capita: 910 cu m/yr (2000)
Natural Hazards	seasonally high winds (the pampero is a chilly and occasional violent wind that blows north from the Argentine pampas), droughts, floods; because of the absence of mountains, which act as weather barriers, all locations are particularly vulnerable to rapid changes from weather fronts
Environmental Issues	water pollution from meat packing/tannery industry; inadequate solid/hazardous waste disposal

PEOPLE

Population	3,308,535 (July 2011 est.)
Ethnic Groups	white 88%, mestizo 8%, black 4%, Amerindian (practically nonexistent)

Religions	Roman Catholic 47.1%, non-Catholic Christians 11.1%, nondenominational 23.2%, Jewish 0.3%, atheist or agnostic 17.2%, other 1.1% (2006)
Languages	Spanish (official), Portunol, Brazilero (Portuguese-Spanish mix on the Brazilian frontier)
Literacy Rate	definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 98% male: 97.6% female: 98.4% (2003 est.)
Major Infectious Diseases	HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate: 0.5%; 9,900 people living with HIV/AIDS (2009 est.); HIV/AIDS death: NA
GOVERNMENT	
Type	constitutional republic
Independence	25 August 1825 (from Brazil)
Constitution	27 November 1966; effective 15 February 1967; suspended 27 June 1973; revised 26 November 1989 and 7 January 1997
Legal System	based on Spanish civil law system; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	beef, soybeans, cellulose, rice, wheat, lumber, dairy products; fish
Industries	food processing, electrical machinery, transportation equipment, petroleum products, textiles, chemicals, beverages
Import commodities	crude oil (13.4%), refined oil (4.9%), passenger vehicles (3.5%), transportation vehicles (2.7%), vehicles parts (2.2%), cellular phones (2.1%), insecticides (1.7%)
Import Partners	Brazil 18.6%, Argentina 16.7%, China 13.5%, Venezuela 9.1%, US 8.3%, Russia 4.2% (2010 est.)
Export Commodities	beef, soybeans, cellulose, rice, wheat, wood, dairy products; wool
Export Partners	Brazil 21%, Nueva Palmira Free Zone 10.2%, Argentina 7.5%, Chile 5.5%, Russia 5.3% (2010 est.)
Per Capita GDP	\$14,300 (2010 est.)
Population below poverty line	27.4% of households (2009)

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

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General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	76.7
Average number of years in School (in years)	8.4
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	13,808
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	12.3
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	56.6
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	51.7
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	64.4
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	84.6
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	99
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	<2 %
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	5
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	19

Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	62
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	38
Population without Access to Water (%)	0
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	0
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	< 0.01
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	200
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	...
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	<5
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	92.5
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.3
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.6
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	0.6
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	10.0
Population without Electricity (%)	0.0

